

**Notes from the SNAMP Public Participation Team Integration Meeting
May 19th 2009 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in Davis, CA**

In Attendance:

Ann Westling – USFS Tahoe NF
John Battles – UC Science Team
Reg Barrett – UC Science Team
Jo Bridges – USFS Tahoe NF
Steve Brink – California Forestry Association
Sue Britting- Sierra Forest Legacy
Mike Chapel – USFS Region 5
Kathy Clement - Kathy Clement
Shasta Ferranto – UCST Public Participation
Chris Fischer USFS Tahoe NF
Pamela Flick - Defender of Wildlife
Rich Gresham – Placer RCD
Ann Huber – UC Science Team
Lynn Huntsinger – UCST Public Participation

Kim Ingram – UCST Public Participation
Susie Kocher – UCST Public Participation
Anne Lombardo – UCST Public Participation
Martha Maciel - USFS Region 5
Kim Rodrigues – UCST Public Participation
Gary Roller – UC Science Team
Adriana Sulak – UCST Public Participation
Doug Temple – UC Science Team

By webinar:

Martha Conklin - UC Science Team
Sue Exline – USFS Sierra NF
Dave Martin – USFS Sierra NF
Darca Morgan- Sierra Forest Legacy
John Warpeha – Washoe Tribe

I. Welcome and overview: Kim Rodrigues facilitated introductions and gave a background on the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP). She discussed the adaptive management definition adopted by the project as deliberate experimentation but with a commitment to a participatory process. She gave background on the development of the project and the role the public played in shaping it. Vital components of the public participation process include outreach, a comprehensive and sustained process, effective facilitation and transparent decision-making.

III. SNAMP outreach strategy and activities: Susie Kocher reviewed the overall outreach strategy by the project. Outreach is being done to increase participation and encourage learning hopefully leading to shared understandings about the ecosystem, improved research, and collaborative implementation outcomes. She reviewed current public involvement activities and participation rates which have drastically increased since the full staffing of the University of California Cooperative Extension team (one part-time outreach staff each in the southern site and the northern site, and a half-time coordinator). 52 different events have been held since 2005 and the project has made over 1,278 contacts.

IV. Interview Responses about SNAMP: Drs. Adriana Sulak and Lynn Huntsinger reviewed preliminary results from their research on public involvement in SNAMP. They have conducted 34 in depth interviews with individuals that have been active or absent from the project, representing the MOU partners, the science team, the public and community members. In interviews, they asked about peoples' impressions of forest health and adaptive management and how well the project is working. They found that people have varying ideas about success in improving forest health and conducting adaptive management in that some are more oriented to process and some to outcomes. Although this affects how to assess success of the project, a majority said they felt SNAMP was improving relationships. Next steps include completing the interviews and data analysis and using outcomes to improve the project.

V. Web outreach: Shasta Ferranto gave an overview of the role of the SNAMP website in facilitation of public involvement. The website is being used to track information, increase transparency, and carry on dialog. It had 5,000 hits last year from 2,300 unique visitors spread across 88 countries. 38% of users have visited over nine times. Shasta and Dr. Maggi Kelly are pursuing several research questions including: What is the role of the web and technological communication to facilitate public involvement in adaptive management and how is this different than face to face interactions?

For presentation information, please see the presentation posted online at <http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu/documents/233/>

VI. Next Steps: After lunch, participants broke into two break-out sessions for small group discussions focused on soliciting suggestions for next steps on the SNAMP outreach strategy and on the adaptive management diagram:

Outreach session: Participants in the outreach breakout session discussed the current SNAMP outreach strategies and made suggestions to improve it. Facilitators asked the group questions and participants gave feedback.

Question: What methods work best for public participation? What outreach formats do/do not work? How should SNAMP best deliver information?

- Through local UCCE outreach staff: Participants said this model seemed to work well but should be more coordinated with the USFS public affairs officers.
- Through field trips: Participants suggested that fieldtrips are very informative. As a public forum they share a common purpose of sharing information and getting feedback as do scoping events with/in NEPA.
- Through media outlets: Participants suggested that SNAMP increase attention on media outlets (radio, newspapers – both regional and local) by working with one or two reporters who can tell the whole story of the SNAMP background, emerging issues, and treatments to results. It's important to recognize that the SNAMP story is an emerging story with years of information to come. A media plan should be created involving the Forest Service Public Affairs Officers to get the SNAMP message out.

- Through Integration Team meetings: Preliminary results should be shared along with goals and targets in quarterly reports and Integration Team meetings. Reporting results and actions on a timeline (similar to Susie's timelines in the main presentation) is helpful.

Other suggestions:

- Link to other websites whenever possible.
- Produce a YouTube video to reach a broader audience.
- Host a webinar for Forest Service Employees.
- Participate in state and local fairs.
- Use Big Tree Grove in the north as a resource.
- Standardize emails to all participants so messages do not go to spam.

Question: What groups should be included in SNAMP outreach efforts? Participants suggested targeting the following groups for outreach presentations:

- California Native Plant Society
- Urban pockets/cities – ie San Francisco
- Local fire departments
- Housing/zoning groups in each study area
- Native American groups
- Angler groups
- Community Colleges
- Audubon Society
- Friends of the River
- Wilderness Society
- National Wildlife Society

Pam Flick suggested that SNAMP work with Defenders of Wildlife to create a list of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to increase participation. Researchers should look for interview data on why some NGOs don't participate and identify what would motivate them to be involved.

Ann Westling and Sue Exline, the public affairs officers on the Tahoe and Sierra National Forests suggested that SNAMP contact them to identify Native American contacts from each national forest for outreach.

Question: Are there any other questions we should be asking interviewees? Participants suggested asking interviewees their feelings about economic impacts of this project. They asked whether 34 interviews were enough. They also said that interviews serve as an outreach effort in themselves.

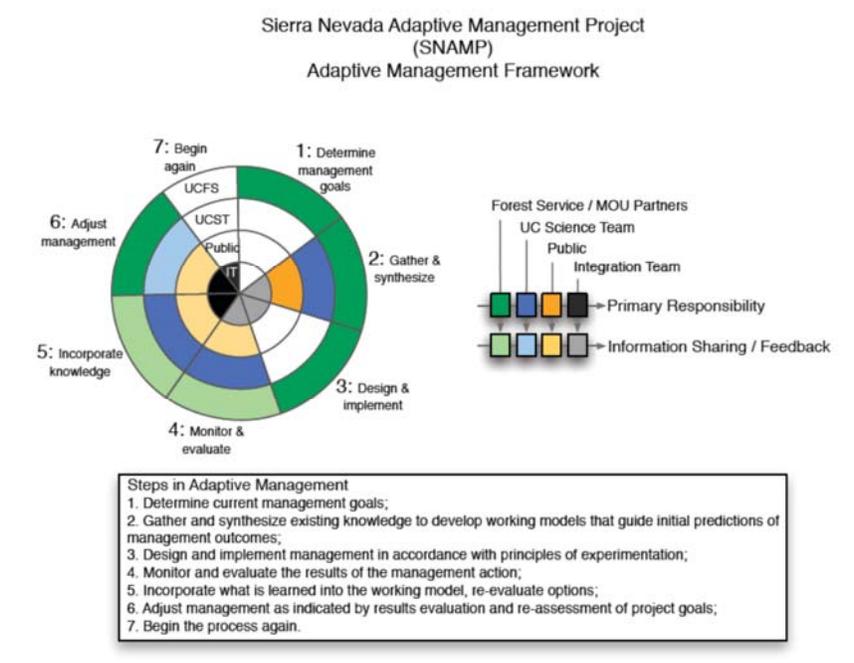
US Forest Service participants said they hoped that SNAMP would create realistic expectations for future for public participation. They suggested information be gathered on the most efficient efforts. There may be two parallel processes developing at the same time - the USFS Forest Plan revision and the SNAMP adaptive management framework. How to share what works? How to best integrate the Forest Service and PPT lessoned learned? How do each benefit from participation? What process components are the most helpful? It would be great to craft a unified approach.

Question: How should we measure success of SNAMP?

Suggestions from participants included:

- By demonstrating the continuity of the adaptive management design
- By showing tangible examples of how research informs decisions and possibly the Forest Plan Amendment Revision
- By showing examples of how public input effects science team research
- By getting the treatments implemented
- By showing relationship improvements
- By tracking numbers of participants
- By decreasing lawsuits

Adaptive management session: The UC Public Participation Team asked for feedback on the adaptive management diagram presented. Overall participants thought the diagram was useful though rather academic. One goal of the diagram is to identify the non-negotiable boundaries and constraints of the project and clarify the delegation of roles between the USFS and UC. Participants suggested that adaptive management is more costly than doing business as usual. Involving the public takes effort and resources. SNAMP is unusual in that it has a public participation budget, most studies or processes do not budget for public participation at all. As the adaptive management process becomes complicated, it is harder to complete it. It is ever evolving. As we delve into the process further, the newer explanatory diagrams, like those presented today, tend to get more complicated and more difficult to decipher. Participants asked whether the model was SNAMP specific. They suggested that PPT consider developing a unified diagram so that it could be used in a broader setting.



Specific suggestions included:

- Insert an area between steps 2 and 3 to determine the critical uncertainties that prioritize your monitoring efforts.
- Fix the typo on number 7 UCFS should be USFS.
- The yellow/public circle should cover white parts most of the way around.
 - Public involvement is included in step 1 through NEPA/reply & comment.
 - Public involvement in step 3.
 - Little to no public involvement in step 6.
- Try to incorporate stages of NEPA into the diagram - The NEPA triangle and IT discussions maybe running a parrallel process.
- All groups involved in step 7; possibly eliminate step 7 and change step 1 title to “Determine and or revise management goals”.

Participants said that the adaptive management process needs to go beyond site specific research. Building capacity is important and takes time. Mutual learning improves relationships. Face to face time is valuable.

Participants also made comments about the upcoming USFS Forest Plan revision process: They said that the NEPA process needs attention and that Forest Service local to regional communication needs to be its best. They suggested the USFS develop an integration team type group up front to help the process so all feel welcome and it could be inclusive and transparent.

VI: *Wrap up/Evaluation:* Participants said they thought the time frame for the meeting, from 10 to 2 was good as was the lunch and location. The format of discussion was good as was the length of presentations and facilitation. Discussion time seemed a little short as breakout sessions felt a little rushed.

Evaluation forms were very positive. For 10 forms turned in:

- 90% strongly agreed and 10% agreed that:
 - Notice of this event was given in a timely manner
 - The location was accessible
 - They were informed of other options
- 80% strongly agreed and 20% agreed that:
 - Goals & objectives clearly stated
 - Collaborative discussion was encouraged
- 80% strongly agreed, 10% agreed, and 10% were neutral that:
 - The event was well organized
- 70% strongly agreed, 20% agreed, and 10% were neutral that:
 - There is a clear plan of action for the future
- 60% strongly agreed, 30% agreed, and 10% were neutral that:
 - There was a clear articulation of findings
 - They learned something new at this event
- 30% strongly agreed, 40% agreed, and 30% were neutral that:
 - There was adequate time for questions and answers